

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 L-03 SCEM-02 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /138 W

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R 181630Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9880

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, VN, IT

SUBJECT: ENI-NORTH VIET NAM PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 113961 (NOTAL; B) ROME 4977

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL A REQUESTING MORE INFO ON SUBJECT AGREEMENT, EMBASSY RAISED MATTER AGAIN WITH CONTACTS IN MFA ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIRECTORATES AS WELL AS WITH ENI.

2. CHIEF MFA OFFICE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH STATE TRADING COUNTRIES WHO RETURNED RECENTLY FROM BRIEF VISIT TO HANOI (SEE JULY 13, 1973 MEMCON ON SUBJECT POUCHED TO EUR/WE,E/EWT, EB/ORF/FSE, ASIA/EA) CONFIRMED GOI INTEREST IN OPENING HANOI EMBASSY LATER THIS YEAR DESPITE CONSIDERABLE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AND EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATING ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH NVN ALONG LINES THOSE SIGNED WITH A NUMBER OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SOURCE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE "NOT QUOTE READY" TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH FORMAL COOPERATION. ADDED THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS ENI-NVN AGREEMENT WHILE IN HANOI, SAID HE HAD NO DETAILS BEYOND THOSE REPORTED IN PRESS, AND REFERRED TO ENI ANY REQUESTS FOR FURTHER INFO.

3. ENI SOURCES WHEN QUERIED ON THE SUBJECT CONTINUE TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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MUTE.WHEN ASKED, HOWEVER, TO COMMENT ON A JUNE 8 PRESS REPORT

THAT "DECLARATION OF INTENT" RATHER THAN FIRM AGREEMENT SIGNED IN HANOI, THEY DINIED REPORT, STATING THAT AGREEMENT DEFINITELY SIGNED WHICH LIMITED TO OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AND THAT ANY PRODUCTION, PROCESSING OR TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROCARBONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER AGREEMENTS.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, MFA FAR EAST POLITICAL OFFICER DIRECTOR TOLD US THAT HANOI OFFICIALS ARE QUITE BLASE ABOUT TIMING FOR OPENING OF GOI/HANOI EMBASSY AND CONSEQUENTLY FONOFF DOES NOT INTEND TO PUSH MATTER UNLESS PRESSED FOR EARLY ACTION BY NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

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